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Chairman: Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine)

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AGENDA ITEM 79: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS (continued) (A/48/403*, A/49/114-S/1994/357, A/49/136, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/335, A/49/336, A/49/479; A/C.4/49/L.12)

1. Mr. STANCEL (Slovakia) said that his country was ready to cooperate actively on all issues pertaining to peace-keeping operations. Today, the naive belief that problems could be solved by simply dispatching more and more missions to areas of conflict had been replaced by a more realistic approach. At that stage, however, there was no need to give in to the pessimistic views that peace-keeping operations had not fulfilled expectations and should therefore be reduced to a minimum. More emphasis should be placed on conflict prevention since no peace-keeping operation, no matter how large or perfect it might be, could not be a substitute for a political settlement of a conflict.

2. The key aspect of peace-keeping operations was undoubtedly their mandate, which should be clear, have precise time specifications and be regularly evaluated. Common definitions of terms and standards should be used in all cases. Operations should be carried out under unified command and control; the authority for issuing specific commands corresponding to the development of the situation in the field should be delegated to the field commanders, while United Nations Headquarters should maintain responsibility for overall control and taking political decisions.

3. In addition to humanitarian activities, there was also a need to include in peace-keeping operations elements to ensure a transition to a legal and democratic society. In that respect, his delegation supported the view that more civilian personnel should be involved in peace-keeping operations.

4. His delegation welcomed the practice of holding consultations with troop-contributing countries and since it appreciated the regular reports and briefings by the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, he noted with regret that the publication of the weekly digest had been terminated.

5. Recognizing that the difficult financial situation posed a serious threat to the concept and credibility of peace-keeping operations, his Government had, at its own expense, made available its former Deputy Force Engineer at UNPROFOR for the Department's Field Operations Division.

6. Since the initial cost of dispatching troops was often so high that they represented significant amounts for some countries, Slovakia would welcome informal consultations on the possibility of providing advanced payments to eligible countries. The concept of stand-by arrangements seemed to be a step in the right direction, which his Government supported, expressing its readiness to make available its production potential and repair and maintenance capacities for that purpose. At the same time, the financial implications should be given

careful consideration since the related expenses might be too high for some countries.

7. Slovakia welcomed the progress made in elaborating an international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. Serious consideration should also be given to whether crimes committed against international personnel should be investigated by an international tribunal since, owing to the nature of the conflict, a host country often could not guarantee the necessary security.

8. The public information component of peace-keeping operations should be strengthened, and the social and historical background of the region and the psychological characteristics of its population should be taken into account in designing information strategies.

9. While welcoming closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, he stressed that the overall responsibility for peace-keeping operations must lie with the Organization. In view of its interest in achieving real progress in the reform of peace-keeping operations aimed at enhancing the United Nations capacity in conflict prevention and resolution, Slovakia expressed its full support for the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

10. Mr. DROBNJAK (Croatia) said that United Nations peace-keeping operations had in recent times contributed greatly to promoting peace and maintaining stability in many areas around the world and that their role would increase in the future. At the same time, those operations should not become a primary instrument of multilateral policy since they could not replace the force of law. It was also necessary to take account of the specific political and other conditions in each particular operation. Peace-keeping operations should not become a means in themselves - they were merely a way to keep peace and maintain stability.

11. His delegation welcomed the exhaustive nature of the draft resolution under consideration (A/C.4/49/L.12), which should serve not only as a blueprint for possible future peace-keeping operations, but also as guidelines for successfully implementing current ones.

12. In view of the need to maintain respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of the draft resolution were of utmost importance. The international community should take special care to avoid natural, but unnecessary and illegal, tendencies to impose its will on countries. The need to address effectively the underlying causes of conflicts was important not only in defining the operation at the outset, but in redefining the operation when those causes became clearer. In that connection, the Croatian delegation hoped that the resolution under agenda item 148 would promote greater understanding of the underlying causes of the conflict in Croatia and help in redefining the operation there in order to achieve its original objectives.

13. On the whole, the rationalization of the costs of peace-keeping operations required transparency and clarity about their mandates and implementation aspects. The principal role and responsibility of the Security Council in defining and redefining mandates should not be overlooked; at the same time, due attention should also be given to the views expressed by Member States in the General Assembly.

14. His delegation attached great importance to paragraphs 8 to 13. Croatia would continue to look for ways to improve communications between the operation in Croatia and the Croatian Government.

15. The issue of command and control was of particular concern with large operations, since excessive decentralization opened doors for dangerous national influences in the management of segments of peace-keeping operations. Croatia had had serious problems in that regard. Moreover, excessive decentralization could have a negative effect on discipline among peace-keeping personnel, and the lack of discipline often led to illegal and criminal activity. His delegation strongly recommended that future discussions and resolutions should deal more specifically with that issue.

16. His delegation paid tribute to the peace-keeping personnel who had sacrificed their lives to save the lives and lessen the suffering of others. Croatia supported all measures that would minimize the risks to peace-keeping personnel, and would welcome the Sixth Committee's adoption of the draft resolution on the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

17. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) said that the question of United Nations peace-keeping operations had been of great interest to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at their conference in Cairo in May 1994. In their declaration, the Ministers, recognizing the unprecedented growth in the number and complexity of peace-keeping operations, stressed the need to establish guiding principles for such operations in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations. They also expressed their conviction that peace-keeping operations could not be a substitute for the political settlement of disputes and that such operations should be of a temporary nature. For that reason, all means for the pacific settlement of disputes should be exhausted before coercive measures under Chapter VII of the Charter were considered. His delegation fully agreed with the view that the use of force as a means of maintaining international peace and security should be used only as a last resort.

18. In the final document of their Eleventh Ministerial Conference (A/49/287-S/1994/894, annex), the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had formulated the following principles, which should govern all peace-keeping operations: such operations should strictly adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; they should be impartial, non-intrusive and non-interventionist; they should be distinct from other types of United Nations field operations, which were governed by their own respective mandates and rules; full transparency of peace-keeping operations and

appropriate consultations were essential; peace-keeping operations should be established with a clear mandate and time-frame, clear objectives and rules of engagement and adequate resources; decisions leading to the establishment of peace-keeping operations should include provisions on the safety of personnel; resources for peace-keeping operations should not be at the expense of resources for development activities; equitable opportunities should be ensured to facilitate the widest possible participation of Member States, in particular the developing countries, in peace-keeping operations; and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements should be in accordance with their respective mandates.

19. His delegation welcomed the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November 1994 (S/PRST/1994/62), which recognized the importance of holding consultations with all troop-contributing countries. That was a good beginning but was only a first step towards greater transparency and democracy in that important United Nations activity. Meaningful consultations, which should be conducted during the formative stage of an operation and continued throughout its duration, should also include major resource-contributing countries and transit States.

20. Peace-keeping activities could not be conducted effectively without the required financial resources and support, and every Member State should therefore pay its contribution in full and on time.

21. His delegation fully shared the view that peace-keeping operations could not take the place of the political settlement of disputes. In that connection, the first regional forum of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July 1994 had been a real example of preventive diplomacy. The objectives of the forum were to build mutual confidence among the participating nations through open discussion of political and security issues. While no specific solutions had emerged for the issues discussed at the first forum, it was already clear that the forum would become a viable means for political cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The forum could also make substantial contributions to United Nations efforts in the maintenance of international peace and security.

22. Mr. PALYA (Hungary) said that 1993 had provided considerable experience in the field of peace-keeping operations. In spite of the success of some operations, Member States had realized that peace-keeping operations had their limitations, that the United Nations alone was not capable of resolving all conflicts, and that there was a growing imbalance between available resources and the challenges to the Organization's peace-keeping activities. On the other hand, the statements made by Member States in the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and at meetings of the working group on the current draft resolution had provided interesting ideas on the further development of the concept of peace-keeping, most of which had become part of the draft resolution.

23. Hungary attached great importance to the statement by the President of the Security Council of 4 November 1994 on the strengthening of arrangements for consultations between troop-contributing countries and the members of the

Security Council. Those mechanisms would make it possible to enhance confidence between the Council and troop-contributing countries, which was needed to achieve a broader and more solid political basis for the operations. There was a clear connection between the quantity of information provided to Member States and their willingness to participate in a given operation. Troop-contributing countries should receive, on a regular basis, timely information on the evolving situation in a conflict area. His delegation was disappointed that the weekly reports of the Situation Centre of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations had been terminated and hoped that that indispensable activity would be resumed.

24. Regional organizations should assume an increasingly active role in efforts to strengthen the Organization's peace-keeping capacity, and the main principles for their participation in that activity should be consistent with the provisions of the Charter.

25. Hungary had just finished training its first peace-keeping company with the support of the United Nations Training Centre. The Centre had developed further plans to assist troop-contributing countries in training personnel, and his delegation hoped that those plans would be put into practice as soon as possible. His delegation also supported the idea of creating mobile training teams to facilitate the exchange of experience among troop-contributing countries.

26. Since one of the key factors in conflict management was the ability of the United Nations to respond quickly, Hungary looked forward to further improvements in stand-by arrangements, and supported regional initiatives along those lines which would give new impetus to preventive conflict management.

27. As to the financial aspects of peace-keeping operations, Hungary reiterated its support for the idea of a unified budget system, as well as for the Secretary-General's proposal to simplify the budget process and reduce the number of assessments.

28. Ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and others involved in peace-keeping operations was of paramount importance, and his delegation welcomed the efforts of the Sixth Committee in that connection and approved the draft Convention on the subject.

29. Mr. OO (Myanmar) said that the hopes for lasting peace, security and development throughout the world brought by the end of the cold war had not been realized, and the global threat had given place to ethnic, racial and religious conflicts. Under the circumstances, the maintenance of international peace and security had become more important than ever, and consequently, the United Nations now had an increasingly important role to play in the world.

30. There had recently been a sharp rise in the number of United Nations peace-keeping operations, and the nature and aspects of peace-keeping had changed. Peacemakers were entrusted with increasingly complex tasks which included supervising elections, human rights monitoring and providing humanitarian assistance. As a result of the multifaceted mandates and tasks, not all peace-

keeping operations were successful. In order to increase their effectiveness, the experience of past operations should be carefully reviewed and assessed, and in that connection Myanmar welcomed the recommendations and proposals contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.

31. Myanmar was convinced that all aspects of peace-keeping operations must be carried out in strict conformity with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. Such principles must be applied consistently and unselectively, in particular those of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs. It was of the utmost importance that all peace-keeping operations should have a clear mandate based on the full consent of all parties to the conflict and at the request of the Member States involved.

32. Peace-keeping operations formed only part of the process of conflict resolution and must therefore be temporary; they should not be regarded as a substitute for long-term political settlement.

33. Myanmar shared the view that the root causes of most conflicts were inequalities in social and economic development; the United Nations must therefore pay greater attention and allocate more resources to the social and economic spheres. It was clear that without economic and social development, peace and security would remain unattainable goals. In that connection, he referred to the statement by the head of his delegation during the general debate in plenary meetings at the current session, in which he had pointed out the importance of devoting equal attention and resources to the implementation of "An Agenda for Peace" and "an agenda for development".

34. In view of the increasing complexity and diversity of peace-keeping operations, the availability of financial, human and material resources had become an even more significant factor in ensuring their smooth and effective implementation. The unprecedented increase in the number of peace-keeping operations had resulted in a financial crisis, and since such operations were the collective responsibility of all Member States, Myanmar called upon the latter to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

35. Myanmar greatly appreciated the efforts of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations in coping with the increasing number of activities, and welcomed its further strengthening. In conclusion, his delegation expressed its gratitude to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and its Chairman for the comprehensive report before the Fourth Committee, which, in his view, would be a useful guide for future peace-keeping operations.

36. Mr. INDERFURTH (United States of America) expressed satisfaction at the fact that, as it was clear from the draft resolution under consideration, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations continued to play a very constructive role in the further improvement of United Nations peace-keeping operations. The resolution contained a set of guidelines for the Secretariat that were comprehensive and, in many cases, precise. He hoped that the consensus document would help the Secretariat to interpret the views of Member

States in discharging the urgent task of improving peace-keeping infrastructures and related policies.

37. None the less some areas of ambiguity remained in the text. As the sponsor of three new paragraphs and in the light of the provisions of paragraph 59 of the draft resolution, the United States recalled that it was not proposing to increase the regular budget to cover the expenses incurred by new requirements for the civilian police, the training of peace-keeping staff or public affairs. Instead his delegation urged the Secretary-General to meet the new resource requirements by a combination of methods. First, he should try to meet the modest additional administrative costs arising from the new mandates of the civilian police (para. 36) and the training of peace-keeping staff (para. 50) by requesting the necessary funds from the peace-keeping support account. In future, assuming the new activities proved successful, those expenses could be included in the Organization's regular budget. Second, the additional costs of operational activities should be covered by resources donated by Member States, and the United States Government was prepared to consider requests along those lines.

38. Paragraph 45 concerning the new mandate on public affairs recommended that the Secretary-General should request the assistance of Member States in developing programmes and materials to train public affairs officers. The United States had a keen interest in that aspect of the activities and pointed to the need for enhanced administrative and operational support for the public affairs officers involved in peace-keeping missions. In that regard his delegation endorsed the recommendation contained in the Secretary-General's report of 14 March 1994 (E/AC.51/1994/3) for the creation of a unit in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations responsible for peace-keeping information. It further proposed that the unit should be staffed by reallocating resources from the Department of Public Information. With regard to the field component of public affairs support for peace-keeping, the United States suggested that greater attention should be paid to those activities in the budget proposals for future peace-keeping missions.

39. The resolution quite rightly underscored the need for a clear and unified command and control structure. The informal working group of Member States had prepared a useful document on the subject which had been forwarded to the Secretary-General for consideration. The United States looked forward to his report on the matter.

40. The resolution also encouraged the Secretary-General to pursue further improvements in the budgetary and financial procedures for peace-keeping operations. The United States was of the view that many of the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's reports of 14 March and 30 September as well as the recommendations for a unified budget were praiseworthy and should be approved by the Fifth Committee at the current session.

41. Another timely and important element of the resolution was the section concerning consultation mechanisms for keeping troop-contributing countries in touch with the Security Council. The Council had also shown interest in

enhancing consultation mechanisms and exchange of information with those countries. On the basis of the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 4 November 1994 a new system of consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Council had been set up which went very far towards meeting the concerns expressed by members of the Committee.

42. In conclusion, he paid tribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate an international convention on the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel as well as to the members of the Sixth Committee for the progress made on the convention, which he hoped would substantially improve the safety of military and other personnel participating in United Nations operations.

43. Mrs. KUMAR (India) said that Indian troops took part in many United Nations peace-keeping operations, and indicated her Government's willingness to provide troops for the United Nations stand-by arrangements. With regard to India's position on peace-keeping operations, she referred to the statement by the Permanent Representative of India in the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, the statement by the head of the Indian delegation to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session and the guiding principles for peace-keeping operations adopted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Noting the endeavours of Member States in the area, as borne out by the latest report by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, she expressed her delegation's appreciation to the Chairman.

44. Among the most important issues facing the United Nations in connection with peace-keeping operations, the shortage of resources hindered their successful implementation, and she therefore urged Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time according to the relevant scale established. The arrangements for compensation in case of death or disability must be based on the principle of equal pay for equal work. Reimbursements for the depreciation of contingent-owned equipment must be made using transparent criteria and an appropriate scale. As to the provision of non-military supplies and contracts for peace-keeping operations, her delegation took the view that such supplies and services should be awarded on the basis of transparent and international competitive bidding. Greater delegation of financial authority to force commanders with appropriate control and accounting mechanisms was essential. Effective coordination between field headquarters and the contingent commanders on issues affecting the planning and management of peace-keeping operations must be ensured. Consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries on all aspects of peace-keeping operations were also required. While welcoming the steps taken by the Security Council to introduce some transparency into its peace-keeping work, she said that they should not be a substitute for a comprehensive restructuring of the Council's working methods.

45. In conclusion she said that recent difficulties in the area should provide an incentive for further study of how the peace-keeping role of the United Nations could be strengthened in a manner which would be in keeping with the underlying principles and purposes of the Charter.

46. Mr. SENGWE (Zimbabwe) noted the great importance Member States attached to the work of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. His delegation was convinced that the time had come to expand the membership of the Special Committee in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation. Peace-keeping, peace-building and peacemaking should not be the preserve of a few economically or politically powerful countries.

47. His delegation was pleased to note that the draft resolution contained a provision on the need for clearly defined peace-keeping mandates and underscored the importance of consultations with troop-contributing countries. Drawing attention to the important contribution of regional organizations in international efforts for promoting peace-keeping, security and safety, in particular the African organizations, he pointed out that they required financial and other material assistance from the United Nations and other regional organizations.

48. Turning to the funding of peace-keeping operations, he underlined the importance of Member States paying their assessed contributions promptly and in full; his delegation believed that the debate on document A/49/945 came within the purview of the Fifth Committee. His delegation welcomed the establishment in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations of a situation centre for coordinating work between the field offices and the Secretariat on the one hand and the Secretariat and member countries on the other hand. It also welcomed the initiative for the elaboration of an international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, which would fill an obvious gap in international law.

49. In conclusion, his delegation paid tribute to those who had laid down their lives for the cause of peace and expressed appreciation of the tireless efforts and dedication of the men and women working to achieve peace.

50. Mr. MWAMBULUKUTU (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the image of the United Nations would very much depend on its all-round performance, especially in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security. In his address to the General Assembly at its current session, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania had expressed concern that the collective security system envisaged under the Charter had not always worked to the satisfaction of many Member States, a fact that he attributed to lack of political will to enhance the representative nature and democratic traditions of the Organization. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 47/120 A, on "An Agenda for Peace", increasing attention had been given to the peace-keeping role of the United Nations. With the ending of the cold war there was an increasing demand for the United Nations to intervene in various conflict situations. His delegation welcomed the omnibus draft resolution, which was a product of all-inclusive consultations and touched on all aspects of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.

51. The United Republic of Tanzania could not remain indifferent to the expansion of peace-keeping operations, of which 17 had been authorized over the previous five years, at a cost of US$ 3 billion and with the participation of

some 75,000 United Nations peace-keepers. It was a matter of deep concern that the major part of the so-called new generation of peace-keeping operations was in Africa. It was a matter of urgency to take appropriate action, otherwise the human race would be dragged into a never-ending confrontation. The value of the action shortly to be taken by the Fourth Committee would depend on the extent to which its wide-ranging proposals advanced the international community towards shared responsibility so as to address comprehensively the root cause of conflict.

52. His delegation strongly supported the idea of enhancing the cooperation of the United Nations with regional organizations in peace-keeping. Regional organizations such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) could play a greater role in conflict prevention and resolution. His country was involved in two peace-keeping activities under the aegis of OAU. A battalion-strength Tanzanian contingent was serving as part of the Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). In spite of the help given by the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), the inadequate resources available to the 12,000-strong ECOMOG contingent had undermined its morale. His country was also deeply involved in the search for peace and reconciliation in neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi.

53. In his address to the General Assembly, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania had said that his country had been involved in facilitating the process leading to the signing of the Arusha Peace Agreement. For various reasons, the parties concerned had failed to implement the Agreement, which provided a comprehensive framework for a permanent solution to the political and security problems in Rwanda. The problem of stemming the tide of refugees and of effecting their subsequent repatriation remained as urgent as it had been previously. The situation was adversely affecting the local communities, and the environmental damage caused by the huge and sudden influx of refugees, who outnumbered the local population, was enormous.

54. The humanitarian aspect of peace-keeping must be one element of the multifaceted approach to resolving conflicts. Appeals for increased international support for countries forced to accept such a huge influx of refugees must not go unheeded. If the OAU troops had been properly equipped and given logistic support at the height of the crisis, the redeployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) would already have been completed.

55. In conclusion, his delegation reiterated the appeal for investment of the essential resources, both moral and material, in assisting the OAU mechanism for preventing, managing and resolving conflicts.

56. Mr. HENZE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and Austria, said that they were major contributors to peace-keeping operations in terms of personnel, both military and police, and of logistic and material support. Currently more than 18,000 peace-keepers from the European Union and Austria were serving with 16 United Nations operations. The number of operations had increased sharply, the requirements in terms of personnel and finance had

increased and the mandates had become far more ambitious. The profound changes in the scope and size of peace-keeping operations had paved the way for a thorough debate on the reform of the United Nations and the enhancement of its capacity to deal with new challenges.

57. The tragic events in Rwanda had led many to a profound reflection on the response to be made by the international community, in particular the United Nations, to such crises. A number of members of the European Union had put forward their own ideas and proposals in that context.

58. The European Union and Austria reiterated the importance of the preventive deployment of troops and the creation of demilitarized zones. They stressed the need to enhance cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and regional arrangements, agencies and organizations and other intergovernmental organizations in peace-keeping and welcomed the progress in cooperation between the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the United Nations. The European Union would itself continue to work closely with the United Nations in solving the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to reform the structures of the Secretariat with a view to strengthening the capacity to manage such operations were highly commendable. The European Union and Austria attached great significance to strengthening the civilian police function, and actively supported the initiative of stand-by arrangements between Member States and the United Nations.

59. Common guidelines and performance standards in military and civilian training for peace-keeping operations were also important. The United Nations played a significant role in developing training manuals and standards. Furthermore, it was essential to establish a clear, well-defined and unified command and control structure for peace-keeping operations, under the operational control of the United Nations.

60. Experience in the area of peace-keeping had highlighted the need for further enhancing the arrangements for consultations between members of the Security Council, troop-contributing countries, and the Secretariat. There was also a need for more effective coordination of humanitarian, political and military components within United Nations peace-keeping missions.

61. The European Union and Austria reiterated the importance they attached to arrangements for the security and protection of personnel as an integral part of any peace-keeping operation, and called for appropriate measures to be taken. They welcomed the successful conclusion of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing with the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and urged Member States receiving personnel involved in such activities to take necessary measures, including the conclusion of bilateral agreements between the Member States concerned, to provide legal protection for such personnel.

62. It was regrettable that the financial situation of the United Nations remained difficult. It was essential that all States should pay their

contributions in full, on time and without conditions. The European Union had repeatedly stressed the need for a comprehensive financial reform.

63. It was very important to disseminate information on peace-keeping operations, especially in those countries and regions in which they were taking place, and in countries that were contributing troops. The success and credibility of any operation depended largely on the understanding and support of local populations.

64. Mr. SOSSOU (Benin) said that the attention accorded to the question of peace-keeping operations was evidence of the significance the international community attached to the cause of peace, solidarity and development.

65. Benin, which had participated very actively in the search for a solution to the crisis in Liberia, would have liked the United Nations to give greater assistance to regional and subregional organizations in their efforts to prevent conflicts.

66. On the question of the definition and execution of the mandates of peace-keeping operations, his delegation shared the view that mandates based on an analysis of the situation in the field, with realistic aims and clearly established time-frames, would make it possible to avoid irrational use of resources and losses among personnel. The statement by the President of the Security Council on the question of consultations between members of the Council and States contributing troops was a positive step towards perfecting methods of conducting peace-keeping operations.

67. Benin condemned attacks on United Nations personnel and expressed the hope that the draft convention adopted by the Sixth Committee would be supported by Member States.

68. In conclusion, his delegation paid tribute to the memory of those who had lost their lives while fighting for peace.

69. Mr. SRIYONO (Indonesia) said that Indonesia recognized the importance of peace-keeping operations and their vital contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. In recent years the Organization's peace-keeping activities had grown dramatically in size and complexity. They had now gone beyond their traditional role, and encompassed activities such as assistance in conducting elections, humanitarian aid, assistance in nation-building, border monitoring and monitoring of observance of human rights. Mandates for peace-keeping operations must be clear and unambiguous and based on an assessment of the situation by the Secretary-General. Consultation and coordination mechanisms between the Security Council and troop-contributing States needed to be strengthened, particularly in the context of any changes in the mandate. Such an approach would ensure greater transparency and openness in decisions on peace-keeping.

70. The training of peace-keeping personnel should be conducted on the basis of agreed United Nations standards in order to ensure that all personnel dispatched

should have a general understanding of prescribed procedures in the field. The initial stage in preparation of forces should be conducted by each troop-contributing country. It was important to recruit military staff with specific skills in such areas as planning and logistics, and who were familiar with the country or countries involved, particularly with the languages and cultures of the people of the regions where the peace-keeping forces were to be deployed. Responsibility for decision-making could be entrusted to the Security Council. However, at the same time the will of the majority of the members of the international community should also be taken into account. The Secretary-General should be given discretionary authority with regard to day-to-day peace-keeping activities.

71. The Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries had considered the question of establishing guiding principles for peace-keeping operations in accordance with the Charter, with a view to enabling the Organization to contribute effectively towards resolving conflicts peacefully. Those principles included, inter alia, a request to the State involved and its consent, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of all States, impartiality, transparency, appropriate consultations, particularly between the troop-contributing countries and the Security Council, and equal opportunities for participation by all States. Such factors as a clearly defined mandate and objectives, command and control structures, time-frames, rules of engagement, secure financing and adequate resources would be of paramount importance.

72. Peace-keeping operations should be regarded not as a substitute for the political settlement of disputes, but only as one of a number of temporary measures. In view of the Organization's steadily expanding role in peace-keeping operations, it had become imperative to find ways and means of ensuring broader and more stable support for activities in that field. There was no doubt that the current arrangements for financing those activities were inadequate. The non-aligned countries considered it necessary to address the problems of reimbursement for troop costs and payment of compensation to countries participating in operations, especially the developing countries, and called for contributions to cover the cost of peace-keeping in accordance with the special scale of assessments established by General Assembly resolution 3101 (XXVIII).

73. Mr. TAYE (Ethiopia) said that, as recent peace-keeping operations demonstrated, the United Nations was faced with a difficult task in ensuring the success of such operations. Ethiopia participated in the efforts of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations aimed at enhancing the role of those operations in the maintenance of international peace and security. In specific terms, Ethiopia's commitment to United Nations peace-keeping efforts had been vividly demonstrated through the presence of its troops in Rwanda.

74. It was gratifying to note the establishment of a consultative mechanism between the Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries. That mechanism should be further refined and improved. At the consultations, consideration should be given, inter alia, to significantly extending or

changing mandates of operations. The role of neighbouring countries and other regional interests in consultations was a crucial element in improving peace-keeping operations. Geographical proximity and knowledge of a region's particular characteristics made their contribution to the efforts of the Security Council highly useful.

75. Ethiopia supported the various innovative steps being taken or planned by the Secretariat in connection with the management of peace-keeping operations. In that regard, the role of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations in rationalizing its operational work, including the establishment of a situation centre, should be recognized. It was disappointing to note that the practice of issuing the weekly digest had been discontinued.

76. The possibilities provided for under the Charter for establishing cooperation with regional organizations had not been thoroughly explored. If the various regional organizations were provided with the necessary political, logistic and financial support, they could assist and complement the efforts of the United Nations. The Organization of African Unity had recently set up a mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution for the continent. Such regional and relevant subregional structures must be strengthened in order to make use of their political potential and resolve. Ethiopia would carefully follow up the various proposals put forward in that connection during the general debate at the current session of the General Assembly.

77. Efforts to contain conflicts, particularly in Africa, required effective courses of action. Accordingly, the objective of peace-keeping operations must first be to promote a favourable political situation and then to tackle the root causes, which, in most cases, were socio-economic in nature.

78. Ethiopia reaffirmed its commitment to work closely with other members of the Organization to carry out that difficult, but important task. Lastly, he paid tribute to those engaged in the practical work of achieving that noble purpose.

79. Mr. KÜNG (International Committee of the Red Cross) said that in recent years the civilian population had often been the target of armed conflicts. On the other hand, there had also been a dramatic growth in the number, scale and activities of United Nations peace-keeping operations, which had often gone beyond the traditional concept of peace-keeping based on the consent of the States and parties concerned and aimed at preventing a resumption of hostilities. In a number of those operations, it had been necessary to use military force in order to carry out the various mandates.

80. Grave and massive violations of international humanitarian law during recent conflicts had constituted threats to international peace and security. It was thus the responsibility of the United Nations and, in particular, the Security Council to decide what measures were to be taken under Chapter VII of the Charter. Such measures differed from those provided for under international humanitarian law, notably in that the use of force was not excluded. Force was being resorted to more frequently in order to ensure the delivery of

humanitarian assistance rather than to put an end to massive violations. Moreover, such humanitarian action was not always perceived by the parties to the conflict as neutral and impartial. As a result, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) believed that it must maintain its independence in carrying out humanitarian activities in order to provide protection and assistance to all victims and act as a neutral mediator between all parties to a conflict, including any armed forces deployed or authorized by the United Nations.

81. ICRC also wished to remind States of their primary responsibility to put a stop to grave and massive violations of international humanitarian law. That responsibility had been reaffirmed in the declaration adopted at the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims, held in Geneva in 1993. In June 1994, ICRC had organized a symposium on the subject "Humanitarian action and peace-keeping operations". The symposium had highlighted the need for greater clarity with regard to the military and humanitarian aspects of operations, although both aimed at alleviating human suffering. Subordinating or linking humanitarian action to political objectives had an adverse impact on the independence and neutrality of humanitarian activities. It had also been stressed that the provision of humanitarian assistance was not an end in itself and did not relieve the international community of its responsibility to put an end to massive violations of international humanitarian law and find political solutions to conflicts. The report of the symposium had been published by ICRC and sent to all Governments and relevant United Nations services.

82. With regard to the applicability of international humanitarian law to United Nations forces, it should be recalled that that law applied irrespective of the legality of the use of force or its objectives. In that context, ICRC welcomed the fact that the United Nations had, on several occasions, accepted the applicability of the principles of international humanitarian law to its forces and had included a clause to that effect in its model status of forces agreement. He also noted with satisfaction that there was a similar provision in the recently elaborated draft international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel.

83. In conclusion, he recognized that the United Nations was not a party to the Geneva Conventions or their Additional Protocols and that not all of the detailed provisions of those instruments applied to the Organization. ICRC believed that the elaboration of specific rules applicable to United Nations forces would enable them to implement international humanitarian law more effectively. The International Committee of the Red Cross was therefore currently in the process of consulting with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations on the modalities for joint efforts in that area.

84. The CHAIRMAN said that the number of speakers in the general discussion (there had been 55 of them), demonstrated the importance which the international community attached to the question of peace-keeping operations and he expressed the hope that that exchange of views would help enhance the effectiveness of those operations.

85. Mr. GWARY (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.12, orally revised the text of the draft resolution. In the third line of paragraph 12, the word "important" had been deleted. Paragraph 39 should read:

"39. Welcomes the adoption by the Sixth Committee of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;".

In addition, in the first line of paragraph 2, the word "Emphasizing" should read "Emphasizes"; in the first line of paragraph 26, the word "contribute" had been replaced by the word "continue"; and in the sixth line of paragraph 40, the words "his regard" should read "this regard".

86. Mr. MUSTAFA (Secretary of the Committee) said that if the General Assembly adopted draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.12, as specified in paragraph 59 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would carry out the numerous requests and proposals contained in the resolution as far as possible within the appropriation level approved by the General Assembly in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 and within the level of resources available under the support account for peace-keeping operations. Consequently, if the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, no additional appropriation would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

87. Draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.12, as orally revised, was adopted.

88. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded consideration of agenda item 79.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.